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SHORT COMMUNICATION

RARE BRANCHING IN *Cocos nucifera* L.

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ABSTRACT

In general monocots are unbranched plants, but in this present paper the coconut plant which is belonging to monocot having the two fertile braches found at Mulikipalli village near Razole, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Key words:

Coconut tree, rare branching,

Andhra Pradesh, India.

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During our ecological studies on mangroves of the Godavari estuary, we came to know from the local people of the delta, that one coconut palm having the two fertile branches at Mulikipalli village near Razole. We have rushed to the spot and examined the palm. In our earlier report (Narasimha Rao and Florence, 1999), we described the multiple branching in the Palmyra palm. In that case, except caudex stem, remaining all branches are sterile without any inflorescence, whereas in the present study at about 5m height, the palm plant bifurcated into two equal branches. And these two branches developed equally and able to producing the nuts of normal size (Plate – 1).

According to (Field, 1908), multiple branching in wild date is due to the terminal bud being struck by lightning, (Blatter, 1926), reported that branching is rare phenomenon in palms. It is often caused by injury of the terminal bud being struck by lightning. In other cases branching is a consequence of the replacement of flower buds by leafy buds which develop into shoots. Based on the available information that either lightning or injuries of the terminal bud are responsible for the branching in palms. But in the present observation, terminal bud injury may be responsible for the bifurcation of coconut palm.

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